

CLAIMS

1. A method for networked consulting, comprising:
 - a) establishing a predetermined group comprising more than two members;
 - b) receiving at a central location over a wide-area computer network, within a predetermined first time period, a first message from a first member of the group;
 - c) defining a first query based on the first message;
 - d) sending the first query from the central location to at least a portion of the predetermined group;
 - e) receiving over the wide-area computer network at the central location, within a predetermined second time period, a message from a second member of the group comprising a response to the first query;
 - f) preparing an analysis at the central location related to the first query and the response to it; and
 - g) sending the analysis over the wide-area computer network from the central location to the predetermined group.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein step (g) further comprises sending the analysis only to members of the predetermined group that responded to the first query.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of submitting the first query from the central location to the first member for approval before sending the first query from the central location to the portion of the group.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein step (d) further comprises sending the first query to the predetermined group.
5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of storing the first analysis in the central location such that it is accessible to members of the predetermined group.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of
- (i) sending the first query from the central location to a non-group member if no messages are received within the predetermined second time period;
 - (ii) preparing a non-group analysis related to the non-group member's response to the first query; and
 - (iii) sending the non-group analysis from the central location to at least the first member of the group.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein
- (i) step (a) further comprises establishing a predetermined group comprising two or more members that are required to respond to queries sent to them from a central location; and
 - (ii) step (d) further comprises sending the first query from the central location to the predetermined group; and
 - (iii) step (g) further comprises sending the first analysis from the first location to the group.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the identity of the first member is kept anonymous.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the identity of the second member is kept anonymous.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein the identities of the members of the predetermined group are kept anonymous.
11. A method for networked consulting, comprising:
- a) establishing a predetermined group comprising two or more members;

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b) receiving at a central location over a wide-area computer network, within a predetermined first time period, a plurality of first messages from members of the predetermined group;

c) generating at least one set of queries based on at least a portion of the first messages;

d) sending the at least one set of queries from the central location to the predetermined group;

e) receiving at the central location over the wide-area computer network, within a predetermined second time period, a plurality of second messages responsive to at least a portion of the set of queries;

f) preparing at least one analysis based on a query in the set and any corresponding responses; and

g) sending the analysis from the central location to the predetermined group.

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